

The Right to Work

**AMERICANS MUST HAVE THE RIGHT
BUT NOT BE COMPELLED
TO JOIN LABOR UNIONS**



**Factual Questions and Answers on
the Issue by:**

National Right to Work Committee
35 Rust Building • Washington 5, D. C.

The following questions and answers explain the objective of the National Right to Work Committee and why its members believe compulsory unionism (as evidenced by closed or union shops or in any other form) is a danger to our way of life.

QUESTION: Why was the National Right to Work Committee organized?

ANSWER: The National Right to Work Committee was formed to oppose a dangerous and revolutionary concept that has had frightening acceptance in America in recent years—that a free citizen must belong and pay dues to a private labor organization in order to be permitted to work and earn a living. Its supporters and members believe that forced membership in any private organization, as a prerequisite for earning a living, is a violation of every principle of individual freedom on which America was founded, and that it raises a serious threat to the free democratic system which has made our country the greatest in the world. The Committee plans a national educational and informational program to point up the evils of this practice, and the threat it offers to the individual freedom of every American.

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QUESTION: Several state groups have been organized to fight such compulsion within their own borders; why is it necessary to have a national committee as well?

ANSWER: The various state groups have done, and are still doing, a fine job of defending the right to work locally, and many states now have laws upholding this principle. However, as long as the present concept of state vs. federal rights in labor matters continues, state laws alone are a precarious protection for their workers.

A simple amendment to the Taft-Hartley Act could immediately make the state laws illegal and void, just as union leaders are contending the Railway Labor Act already does as far as railroad workers are concerned. Also, there has been a growing tendency on the part of the courts to rule that states are prohibited from enacting or enforcing labor legislation in fields which the federal government has pre-empted.

In addition, state laws are under constant attack by the national labor unions, and must be defended year after year. The state right to work groups recognize, themselves, that their scope is limited in opposing the powerful leaders of nationwide union organizations, and many members of the National Committee are

persons who are already active in various state right to work committees.

Thus, the battle to defend the right to work without compulsory membership in a private organization is national in scope, and must be won on that level.

The National Committee's members are convinced that only through a national program of education to encourage public understanding and support by citizens throughout the whole country can this right of voluntarism in labor union membership be restored, or permanently protected.

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QUESTION: How does the National Committee expect to fight compulsory unionism?

ANSWER: By a national educational and information program aimed at making every citizen conscious of what union compulsion really means. The Committee members feel that the people will overwhelmingly protest against compulsory union membership, with the dictatorial power of union officials and the loss of individual liberty which it entails, once they really understand what it is and how it threatens their own personal freedom.

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QUESTION: What other objectives does the Committee have?

ANSWER: The Committee has only one objective. That is to educate the people of America to the evils and dangers of a citizen's being forced to belong to any private organization in order to earn his or her living.

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QUESTION: What is the difference between a union shop and a closed shop? Doesn't the former just mean a company or plant which has a contract with a union?

ANSWER: Both a union and a closed shop are forms of compulsory unionism, and under both types of contracts a worker must belong to the union to hold his job. A closed shop, however, gives the union the right to permit the hiring of only persons already holding union membership; under a union shop contract, the employer may hire anyone qualified, but that person must join the union and pay dues to it within a specified time—usually 30 or 60 days—in order to hold the job.

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QUESTION: Are such contracts legal?

ANSWER: The closed shop is prohibited by the Taft-Hartley Act. It permits the signing of union shop con-

tracts, however, although it provides (under famed Section 14(b)) that states may have the right to pass laws prohibiting them. The Railway Labor Act, on the other hand, permits union shop contracts on railroads and airlines, and provides that such permission is paramount to any other laws, such as State Right to Work Laws. This section is now being challenged in the courts.

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QUESTION: If the union shop is so bad, why do union members themselves want it?

ANSWER: Many of them do not, but they have little say in the matter. In case after case, union shop contracts have been signed by the union officials against the will of, or at least without the consent of, the employees. They then went along with it, or lost their jobs.

One employee group, alone, has collected signatures of more than 150,000 workers—the vast majority of them union members—on petitions opposing the union shop in the past two years.

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QUESTION: Union officials say that a man who works in a plant and accepts the economic gains secured for him by the union, but refuses to join and pay dues as his share, is a "free rider". Isn't this true?

ANSWER: If the worker really feels that he has gained by union bargaining, and that the union is properly and honestly run, he would probably be glad to be a member *voluntarily*. But if he chooses not to be, he is no more a "free rider" than is the man who enjoys the benefits of the American Red Cross, the service rendered by the Salvation Army or the good work done by a particular church without becoming a member.

Under this theory, even unions could be called "free riders." They pay no taxes but receive, nevertheless, a great many services from the government through the Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board, Federal Mediation Service and many other governmental bodies.

This is the argument of dictatorship: the organization knows what is best for you, therefore you must belong to it and unquestioningly accept its leadership. The right to protest and of disassociation is a basic tenet of liberty.

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QUESTION: Does the National Right to Work Committee think unions should be prohibited?

ANSWER: Certainly not, as long as the members of a union are members through their own freely expressed

choice and are free to resign if they decide their leaders are not representing their interests to their best advantage.

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QUESTION: Who composes the membership of the Committee?

ANSWER: Anyone who believes in the inherent right of an American citizen to work for a living without paying tribute to any private organization for the privilege is welcomed as a member. The Committee was formed by a small group of men in several states who believed strongly enough in this principle to contribute their time and money to its support. Its board of directors includes manufacturers, merchants, professional men and workers, who know from their own experience the evils of compulsory unionism.

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QUESTION: How will the Committee be financed?

ANSWER: Financial support of the committee will be entirely voluntary. All persons who believe in its objectives and want to help in the fight against compulsory unionism are welcome as members. Those wishing to join and support its objectives may do so by sending in any amount from \$1 up. (See page 7.)

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QUESTION: Who directs the Committee?

ANSWER: Committee policy is set by a board of directors, representing business, professional and working men from various sections of the country.

Mr. E. S. Dillard, president of the Old Dominion Box Company, Charlotte, N. C., is chairman of the board.

Mr. Fred A. Hartley, Jr., retired member of Congress from New Jersey and co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, is the Committee's president.

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QUESTION: Why is it called a "Right to Work" committee? Does that mean it would guarantee jobs for anyone, or everyone?

ANSWER: Of course not. It means that everyone shall have the right to work without compulsory membership in any union. Some labor leaders have attempted to confuse the issue by consistently distorting the term, "Right to Work". They have used misleading statements, editorial cartoons and all other such propaganda at their command to try to distort the terms. But those acquainted with this issue know that the right to work

laws now in effect in many states mean the "right to work" without forced membership in a union.

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QUESTION: Why does the Committee feel compulsory union membership is wrong?

ANSWER: Forcing an American citizen to join any organization, and pay dues to it, for the privilege of working and earning a living is a form of economic slavery that is contrary to all the moral principles that have been the cornerstone of American democracy. Not only does it take away the constitutional right of choice of the individual, but it also perpetuates in power those in control of a union, regardless of whether they serve their members honestly and well. Compulsory unionism has no part in the social and economic life of Americans; yet, with the frequent support of government, itself, and lacking any effective nationwide opposition, it has grown more and more commonplace in the past few years.

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QUESTION: Why do you say that compulsory membership in certain unions seeking it now eventually poses a threat to the freedom of every American?

ANSWER: If one group of individuals organized into a private labor union can force other individuals to join them, on penalty of discharge from their jobs, other unions can do the same. Unless such union compulsion is checked and outlawed it can't help but spread to the point of disaster. Eventually, the whole working force, now totalling over 60 million people—more than two-thirds of whom now do not belong to a union—will find they are allowed to hold a job and earn a living only by permission of the leaders of private labor organizations. This will be a socialistic labor dictatorship, with union officials exercising economic—and political—domination of our country.

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QUESTION: Isn't it true that most members of the Committee are really anti-union, and would like to see them destroyed?

ANSWER: Absolutely not. Many of its supporters, including members of the Board, are union workers or former union members, expelled for opposition to maintaining a union membership they had formerly held voluntarily, and others are employers of union workers. To make its position perfectly clear, the Board has adopted as a slogan and integral definitional part of the National Committee's name: "Americans Must

Have the Right, But Not Be Compelled to Join Labor Unions."

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QUESTION: Does the Committee believe that employers should have the right to force workers to stay out of unions, if labor leaders can force them to join under union shop contracts?

ANSWER: The Committee believes just the opposite. The notorious "Yellow Dog" contracts, which prohibited employees from joining unions even if they wanted to, have long been outlawed, and rightly so. The Committee will defend a man's right to become or stay a union member if he is given free choice in the matter, but it believes that forcing him to do so against his will is the "Yellow Dog" contract reversed, and just as obnoxious in this form as in any other.

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QUESTION: How can I join the Committee, contribute to its work or obtain more information about it?

ANSWER: Write or call any member of the board, or the Committee president at Washington headquarters:

Mr. Fred A. Hartley, Jr., *President*

National Right to Work Committee

35 Rust Building

STerling 3-2262

1001-15th Street, NW

STerling 3-7295

Washington, D. C.

"I want to urge devotion to the fundamentals of human liberty . . . the principles of VOL-UNTARISM. No lasting gain has ever come from compulsion. If we seek to force, we but tear apart that which, united, is invincible.

—Samuel Gompers, father of the American Federation of Labor.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

FRED A. HARTLEY, JR., *President*—35 Rust Building, Washington 5, D. C.

GEORGE S. CROUCH, *Treasurer*—The Union National Bank, Charlotte, N. C.

E. S. DILLARD, *Chairman of the Board*—Old Dominion Box Company, Charlotte, N. C.

NATHAN THORINGTON, *Vice-Chairman of the Board*—Thorington Construction Company, Richmond, Va.

Other Members of the Board

W. T. HARRISON—Louisville and Nashville Railroad clerk and president of the National Committee for Union Shop Abolition, composed of non-operating railroad workers opposed to compulsory unionism—2104 West Gaulbert Avenue, Louisville 10, Kentucky.

P. M. FRENCH—Southern Manufacturing Company, Nashville, Tenn.

WHITEFORD S. BLAKENEY—attorney—Pierce and Blakeney, Johnston Building, Charlotte, N. C.

MRS. AMY COOK RODGERS—housewife and former employee of Pan-American World Airways, discharged for refusal to join a union—833 SW 13th Court, Miami, Florida.

WINGATE LUCAS—attorney—Lucas, Poole, Shroyer & Denbo, Commercial Standard Building, Ft. Worth, Texas.

STANLEY R. NAVAS—Concrete Pipe & Products Co., Inc., Richmond, Va.

ERNST FARLEY—Richmond Engineering Company, Richmond, Va.

JOHN R. ALABAUGH—Baltimore and Ohio Railroad engineer, now threatened with discharge after resigning from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers—21 Virginia Avenue, Cumberland, Maryland.

CHARLES H. POTTER—Commerce Union Bank, 400 Union Street, Nashville, Tenn.

S. D. CADWALLADER—Baltimore and Ohio Railroad switchman, expelled from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for opposing compulsory unionism—3841 O'Leary Street, Cincinnati 36, Ohio.

JOHN MARTIN—Sunoco Products Co., Hartsville, S. C.

JOHN H. WYNN—Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad conductor and member of the Order of Railroad Conductors. Mr. Wynn is also local chairman of the United Railroad Operating Crafts (UROC), a national organization of operating railroad employees opposing compulsory unionism—142 Stratmore Avenue, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky.

ROBERT McDOWELL—McDowell & McDowell, Contractors, Nashville, Tenn.

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